



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
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ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

April 29, 2003

**To: People Interested in the Project to Mitigate and Restore White Sturgeon Populations
in the Columbia and Snake Rivers**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has prepared the Final Environmental Assessment (EA), which includes a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), for the White Sturgeon Mitigation and Restoration in the Columbia and Snake Rivers Upstream from Bonneville Dam Project. The document is enclosed for your information.

Background: Since 1986, State, Federal, and Tribal fisheries agencies have been gathering data and studying habitats, movements, population dynamics, feeding, and distribution of white sturgeon in the Columbia River system. With the decline in anadromous salmonid runs there has been an increase in the importance of the white sturgeon fisheries. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has been working to determine the cause of white sturgeon declines in the reservoirs and to take actions that will restore abundance and productive fisheries. Over time, project goals have changed as new information clarified potential restoration actions.

Action: The project will continue to carry out the following activities: research; artificial propagation; transplanting of white sturgeon; broodstock collection, spawning, rearing, and releasing; and hatchery rearing. Additionally, the experimental release of hatchery-reared juveniles is planned. Actions will take place in the following Columbia River mainstem reaches: Bonneville, The Dalles, John Day, and McNary Reservoirs; Hanford Reach, as well as the Wanapum and Rock Island Reservoirs; and the following Snake River mainstem reaches: Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, and Little Goose Reservoirs.

Additional Copies: If you would like more copies of the enclosed EA/FONSI, please call our toll-free document request line: 1-800-622-4520. Leave a request naming this project and giving your complete mailing address.

For More Information: If you need more information or have any questions, please call me toll-free at 1-800-282-3713, or e-mail me at caspiering@bpa.gov. Thank you for your interest in our work.

/s/ Colleen Spiering

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Enclosure:
EA/FONSI